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PRELIMINARY REPORT OF CHILD WELFARE
SERVICES IN BEAVER COUNTY
OCTOBER 10, 1959.

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES IN BEAVER COUNTY
AS PREPARED FOR THE 1960 GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY WHITE HOUSE
CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH BY THE COUNTY SUB-COMMITTEE.
OCTOBER 10, 1959.

MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Lorne Ward, Beaver Falls, Chairman.	Youth Conservation Chairman, Beaver County Federation of Women's Clubs.
Mrs. Sanford Beyer, Beaver.	Juvenile Protection Chairman, Beaver County P. T. A.
Mrs. Leonard Goldstein, Beaver Falls.	National Council of Jewish Women.
Miss Elsie Harker, Beaver Falls.	Executive Secretary, Beaver County Children's Aid and Family Service.
Capt. Richard Howell, Rochester.	Director, Salvation Army.
Mrs. N. W. Hurtt, Beaver.	President, A. A. U. W.
Mrs. E. F. Jannuzi, Beaver Falls.	Board Member, Beaver County Children's Home.
Miss Ann McGovern, Beaver.	Director, Beaver County Child Welfare Services.
Mrs. Eugene Morgan, Beaver.	Vice-Chairman, Youth Conservation, Beaver County Federation of Women's Clubs.
Mrs. John E. Olson, Rochester.	Chairman - Advisory Committee, Beaver County Child Welfare Services.
Mrs. B. C. Painter, New Brighton.	President, Beaver County Children's Aid and Family Service.
Mrs. C. H. Scranton, Beaver.	President, Child Study Club.
Mrs. Howard S. Shanks, Monaca.	Vice Chairman - Advisory Service, Beaver County Child Welfare Services.
Mrs. Charles D. Stone, Aliquippa.	Treasurer - Advisory Committee, Beaver County Child Welfare Services.

BEAVER COUNTY COORDINATOR:
Mrs. Leon B. Wohlgemuth, Beaver.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES OF BEAVER COUNTY.

The Beaver County Child Welfare Services is a public tax-supported agency administered by the County Commissioners for the purpose of providing foster home and institutional placement for dependent and neglected children with legal settlement in the County. It is affiliated with the Bureau of Children's Services of the State Department of Welfare, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. One director and four caseworkers are included in the personnel.

The Child Welfare Services provide substitute family care, including medical and dental attention for the child, help with plans for the care of their children when misfortune interrupts normal family living for the parents as well as counseling with parents of limited children. Maternity service with adoption placement if the mother desires is provided for the unwed mother.

Anyone in the community interested in the welfare of the child and familiar with his needs can refer a child to the Agency.

The Agency tries to keep a child in his own home because the parent is his natural guardian. Only when the home fails entirely, is he removed, and then by Court Order or voluntary relinquishment by parents.

Foster homes are chosen by carefully investigating applicants to determine those who not only love children, but who demonstrate their ability to provide a safe, understanding and happy atmosphere.

The Day-by-Day Services to children are as follows:

(a) Intake Service, including orderly procedure for application, investigation, and acceptance.

(b) Protective Service for children in their own homes, whose parents have been reported to the Agency for neglect.

(c) Counseling and Guidance Service for children in their own homes, and for parents of mentally retarded children. Counseling service is geared to aiding parents in plans for institutionalization of the limited youngster or in helping them to make the adjustment at home.

(d) Placement Service for the child who must live away from home.

(e) Maternity Service.

(f) Adoption Service.

(g) Resource Service to aid out-of-County or State Social Service Agencies.

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Many institutions in the State of Pennsylvania are used in placing some of these children if they cannot be placed in suitable foster homes.

The County Commissioners are responsible for appropriating County funds sufficient to carry forward services to dependent and neglected children in accordance with good standards of care. The State participates in administration through a specialized reimbursement service. Reimbursement from State funds is based upon the market value of property in Beaver County, what is considered the "fair share" for which the County should be responsible. Many service clubs in the County help with their contributions for various phases of this work.

The recommendations of the director of this Agency are:

1. Homemaker Service.
2. Day Nurseries.
3. Well-Baby Clinic.
4. Marital Counseling or Family Service.
5. Legal Aid Society for the purpose of child custody, non-support, and other legal questions.
6. Legislation in the State in regard to changes in adoption law, especially in regard to independent adoptions.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF BEAVER COUNTY.

The Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania was organized in 1883 and incorporated in 1889. At that time the Children's Aid Society of Beaver County was organized as an auxiliary to the Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania and remained an auxiliary until May 31, 1957, when this organization terminated its services. Since that time the Children's Aid Society of Beaver County has operated as an independent agency. The personnel consists of one executive secretary.

The functions are as follows:

1. Foster Home Service.
2. Referral of children having special needs to the proper source of help.
3. Supervision of children in their own homes.
4. Work with unmarried mothers.
5. Adoption.
6. Some material assistance given, mostly good used clothing.

Approximately one half of the income is received from private sources and one half from United Fund Agencies.

A number of disturbed children were helped when referrals were made to the parents for specialized care from reliable sources, such as, The Mental Health Clinic, Falk Clinic, The Pennsylvania School for the Blind, and The State School for the Deaf.

The Children's Aid Society has had as its major project the extension of its services to include a family counselor. It is believed that a good available counseling service to which disturbed parents could come for advice and understanding would offer a long needed service in this County. The Agency is still searching for a qualified counselor with experience and training. Such a person is difficult to obtain; but as soon as they acquire one, it will be ready for this service.

As a direct result of this thinking, the Children's Aid Society was incorporated by the State and will be known in the future as the Children's Aid and Family Service of Beaver County. This action was taken in July of 1959.

The purposes of this extended agency are as follows:

(a) To promote the welfare of children by offering child study and evaluation, to offer placement and supervision for children where their own families are not able to care for them.

(b) To provide for foster home supervision and complete adoption service, referral to other social agencies and sources of assistance and related services.

(c) To aid in the development of healthy family and community life through casework services which shall include counseling, guidance, information and planning to promote better economic and social conditions whereby family living can be strengthened.

The director of this agency recommends the following:

1. Housekeeper Service.
2. Day Nurseries.
3. A Social Service Clearing House where a list of all active or inactive cases would be available for the convenience of all agencies.

THE LUTHERAN SERVICE SOCIETY.

The Lutheran Service Society of Western Pennsylvania is sponsored by the Lutheran Church with headquarters in Pittsburgh. Cases in Beaver County are not limited to those of Lutheran leanings since there is no family service in this area. This Society is financed largely from Lutheran Churches and Lutheran individuals.

This Agency has one trained social worker in Beaver County. They deal with marital problems, personal problems, work with emotionally disturbed adults and children, temporary placement of children where separation is indicated, and some protective care for children in their own homes. Protective service for children is limited inasmuch as they are a private agency and the desire or ability of the clients to use their services enters into this.

Maternity care is planned through existing maternity homes, such as Booth Memorial, Rosalia Foundling, and Zoar Home--all in Allegheny County.

Generally the clientele is self-supporting and can afford to provide special needs, such as glasses, medical and dental care. In some instances when they are not eligible for Public Assistance, glasses are secured through the Beaver County Association for the Blind, and doctors provide medical care. Dental work is a problem. Most needy children can get dental care through the school program, but the families above this level yet with limited income present problems. The Lutheran Service Society has depended upon personal appeal to dentists and in a few cases requested special needs from the County Institutional District.

The director of this Agency recommends the following:

1. Day Nurseries.
2. Homemaker's Service.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES.

The Catholic Social Service provides all social services to all persons regardless of race, color, or creed. It operates under the auspices of the Catholic Church and is a Red Feather Agency. The personnel includes one director and four case workers.

One of the most important types of service is their counseling service. This consists of emotional, pre-delinquent, and marriage counseling. There is a psychological and psychiatric service available to the agency seven days a week. All counseling with children is done with the parents as well, whenever possible. At the present time the agency has twenty-six children in therapy with their parents.

They also deal with unwed mothers, the placement of children in foster homes, and the placement of children in institutions for mentally retarded--correctional and residential.

This is the only social service in Beaver County with a Homemaker Service. These are women who go into homes where an emergency exists to help with the care of children.

The recommendations of the director of this service are:

1. A county-wide referral service which would help people find the right agency without duplication of effort and which still would be confidential.
2. Homemaker Service on a larger scale.
3. More foster homes.
4. Most pressing need for improvement of service is the Juvenile Detention Center at Allencrest.
   (a) Psychological Therapy.
   Group therapy consisting of weekly sessions with the psychologists, the parents, and the child.
   (b) Recreational Facilities.
   Supervised physical, recreational, and creative activities.

The director of this agency feels that the cost of these features is that proper therapy which will return a child to his home and society is far cheaper than institutional care which does little to improve the conditions leading to his problem. She feels this is particularly important for the first offender. She fears for the future generation born to today's children who have not been rehabilitated from pre-delinquent or delinquent conditions.

BEAVER COUNTY CHILDREN'S HOME.

The Beaver County Children's Home is privately operated and is located in New Brighton, Pennsylvania. It is financially aided by the State, the United Fund, board payments by parents, relatives, or Beaver County, private contributions, and the interest on endowments. The policy is to maintain a home in Beaver County for the care of dependent and neglected children to help to prepare them for better citizenship.

The Children's Home has a staff of one superintendent, one secretary, two boys' supervisors, two girls' supervisors, one cook, one laundress, one nurse, and one maintenance man. The superintendent has a good staff of helpers and a natural ability in working with children. The average number of children cared for is thirty-five although they can take care of sixty children. The average ages are from 5 through 16.

Any counseling or guidance service is provided by the superintendent and the house mothers. If there is any needed counseling in helping these children to adjust to the school, there are special educational programs provided by Beaver County.

The Children's Home has a part-time social worker who takes care of the entire population of the Home with the exception of the children who are cared for by the social worker of the agency which has placed them in the Home.

There are a playroom, a playground, and a gymnasium on the premises with part-time supervision. During the summer months a director of recreation is employed. Swimming, camping, Little League baseball, and Scouting are among the various interests of the children.

The superintendent recommends the following:

1. More help for the mentally retarded.

THE SALVATION ARMY.

The Salvation Army in Rochester has a staff of six men and women who work in various programs. The staff is headed by the Captain.

They offer the following services:

1. Counseling for children and parents.
2. This agency is recognized as a sponsor of parole.
3. Recreational programs for children.
   (a) Craft Classes.
   (b) Hobby Groups.
   (c) Boys and Girls' Clubs.
4. Religious programs.
5. Large Christmas program for children and their families.
6. Provide clothing, food, and furniture to needy families and children.

The financial aid for the Salvation Army comes from donations and the United Fund. Service clubs do provide some assistance.

If there is a need for any adoptions, nursery schools, handicapped, psychological or emotionally disturbed children, these are referred to the specific agency in the county.

The director of this Agency recommends the following:

1. Recreational centers for teenagers.
2. Spiritual counseling in the juvenile home and schools.

SPECIAL EDUCATION IN BEAVER COUNTY.

It is believed that children whose homes are unsatisfactory, or who are in danger of becoming delinquent, can be recognized early in school. There are three school districts in Beaver County who have certified visiting teachers. In one school they have a non-certified worker at the present time.

In reference to the guidance for helping a child in a foster home adjust to a school, there is an attempt to coordinate the services of the Child Welfare Service, the Children's Aid, and those services offered by the

Special Education office. There is also cooperation with the Catholic Social Service. These children are referred to this office by the other services in the County.

Many of the schools have guidance counselors in the district. There are special provisions for the mentally handicapped and the physically handicapped care for approximately 250 children. A large speech therapy program (including the above 250) helps 1400 children in the County. We also have one "sub-standard vision" itinerate teacher and five itinerate speech teachers. The crippled children have a special class in the Center in Beaver. Other than the itinerate teachers, there are 26 special classes for the mentally retarded throughout the County in elementary work, including some on the Junior High School level. These rooms are all rented from the school district where they are located.

There are five school psychologists in Beaver County:

1. Ambridge School District.
2. Beaver Falls Area Schools.
3. Hopewell Joint School District.
4. Freedom Area Schools.
5. Aliquippa Area Schools.

The Beaver County School District also has two psychologists.

There are no classes for the emotionally disturbed child. This is not reimbursed by Harrisburg. Some of these children are being helped on an individual basis when they are brought to the office, but there needs to be protection of the other emotionally disturbed children. At present, there are no preventive measures by law for these children before they become acute.

There is a definite need in Beaver County for more classes and teachers for the mentally retarded children--at least 60 classes to meet County needs. Stable classrooms would be more satisfactory since the itinerate teachers lose much valuable time in traveling. There is a long waiting list for the severely mentally retarded classrooms.

Also a need is felt for helping the superior child and more work should be done in this field.

BEAVER COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY.

The majority of the homes in the Housing Authority of Beaver County are designed for families with children, and these families are given preference in renting. These homes run in size from one bedroom to four bedrooms, thereby housing up to eight or nine people.

Play space is provided on all projects, and the safety of the children is considered in street and play area layouts. In 1950 there were approximately 31,245 children in these homes.

All low-income housing is available for all races. In Beaver County families usually fall in a racial pattern by reason of desire of the applicants. Therefore, we have some all white projects and some all negro projects as well as some mixed projects.

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In reviewing the reports of the various services for children in Beaver County, all of the agencies cooperate with one another. They all cooperate with and use the services of the Mental Health Clinic, Crippled Children's Society, Polio Clinics, Pennsylvania School for the Blind, State School for the Deaf, and other agencies of this nature. They feel that they have a very good relationship with one another and are to be commended for their fine services to the children in our County. However, they feel that the following recommendations would be of great help to the children and to them:

1. Homemaker's Service.
2. Day Nurseries.
3. Well-Baby Clinic.
4. Legal Aid Society for the purpose of child custody, non-support, and other legal questions.
5. A Social Service Clearing House which would be confidential and where a list of all active and inactive cases would be available for the convenience of all agencies.
6. More foster homes.
7. More classes and teachers for the mentally retarded.
8. Help for the emotionally disturbed child.
9. Help for the superior child.
10. Spiritual counseling in the juvenile home and schools.
11. Recreational centers for teenagers.
12. A county-wide referral service which would help people find the right agency without duplication of effort and which still would be confidential.
13. Most pressing need for improvement of service is the Juvenile Detention Center at Allencrest.
    (a) Psychological Therapy.
        Group therapy consisting of weekly sessions with the psychologists, the parents, and the child.
    (b) Recreational Facilities.
        Supervised physical, recreational, and creative activities.
14. State legislation in regard to changes in adoption law, especially in regard to independent adoptions.

Many institutions in the State of Pennsylvania are used in placing some of these children if they cannot be placed in suitable foster homes or remain in their own homes. The following are but a few that are used:

D. T. Watson Home, Leetsdale, Pa.
Termon Avenue Home for Negro Children, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Passavant Home, Rochester, Pa.
John Reilly School, Scranton, Pa.
Girlhaven, Altoona, Pa.
George Junior Republic, Grove City, Pa.

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The following people cooperated with the members of the Sub-Committee in helping to prepare this report. We appreciate the time they took to talk with us and for their many suggestions.

Miss Elsie Harker	Executive Secretary, Beaver County Children's Aid and Family Service.
Mrs. Ethel Hasselback	Superintendent, Beaver County Children's home.
Mrs. Roberta Holt	Housing Authority of Beaver County.
Captain Richard Howell	Director, Salvation Army.
Miss Helen Laughlin	Director, Catholic Social Services.
Miss Ann McGovern	Director, Child Welfare Services of Beaver County.
Miss Hannah Parks	Psychologist, Beaver County School District.
Mrs. Esther Sorg	Social Worker, Beaver Office, Lutheran Service Society.